



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet

Office of Mine Safety and Licensing
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EMERGENCY AWARENESS BULLETIN

To: All District Supervisors, Inspectors, Analysts and Instructors

From: Ronald H. Hughes, Director- Investigations

Date: July 22, 2006

Re: Kentucky Fatal No. 12 (Nationally # 35)

EAB-06008 Kentucky Fatal No.12 (Nationally # 35) Highwall Failure

On Tuesday, July 17, 2006, at approximately 9:45 a.m., a surface coal miner operating a highwall drill was fatally injured at a surface mine located within the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing Hazard District. The victim was 28 years of age with approximately eight years of total mining experience, 10 months at this mine and 10 months at this occupation.

The mine is a surface operation which employs a total of 10 employees on one production shift. The victim was in the process of drilling the first row of drill holes next to the highwall when a portion of the highwall collapsed. The collapsing material covered the 16 B Gardner Denver High Drill operator's compartment causing the compartment to collapse on the victim resulting in fatal injuries. The portion of highwall which failed measured 32 feet in height, 19 feet wide and 3 to 7 feet in thickness. The portion of highwall which collapse occurred along a hill seam that ran parallel to the highwall face.

The victim was removed from the collapsed highwall by his fellow co-workers. He was pronounced dead by the Knott County Deputy Coroner at 10:30 AM.

The accident is currently under investigation by the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing and the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

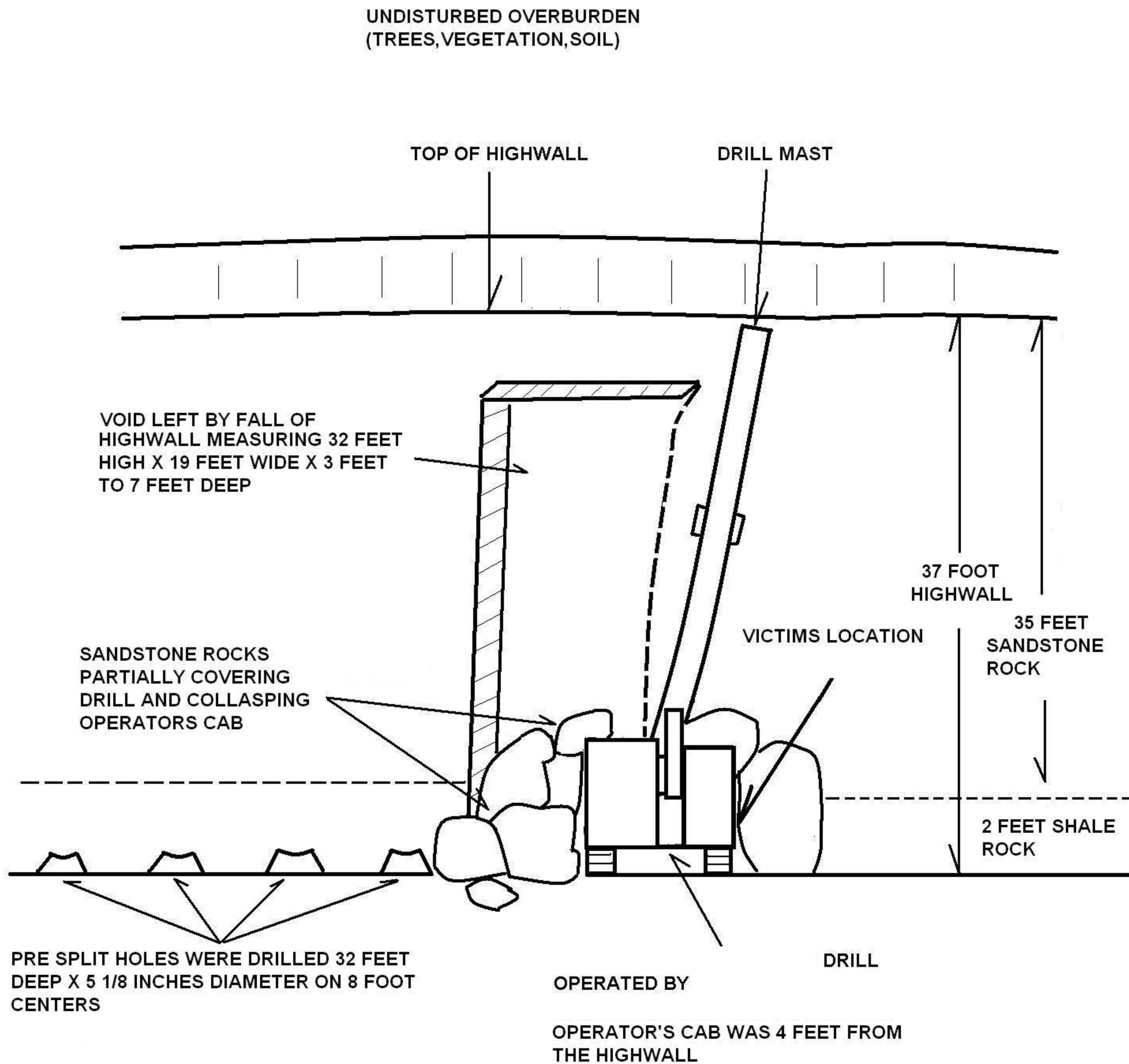
1. Thorough examinations of the faces of highwalls shall be made by a competent person at the beginning of each shift, during the shift while men are working and especially after blasting.

2. Highwall drills used at or near the faces of highwalls should be equipped with a sufficient operations cab which would meet ROPS standards.
3. When parallel seams (mudseams) are encountered in the highwall face, precautions shall be taken not to expose employees to these areas.
4. When a highwall drill is drilling the first set of holes at or near the highwall face, equipment compartments shall be placed where the cab is always facing to the outside of the highwall.

Remember, all accidents are preventable. We simply fail to prevent them.



INC.
NO.1
FILE NUMBER XXX
FATAL ACCIDENT



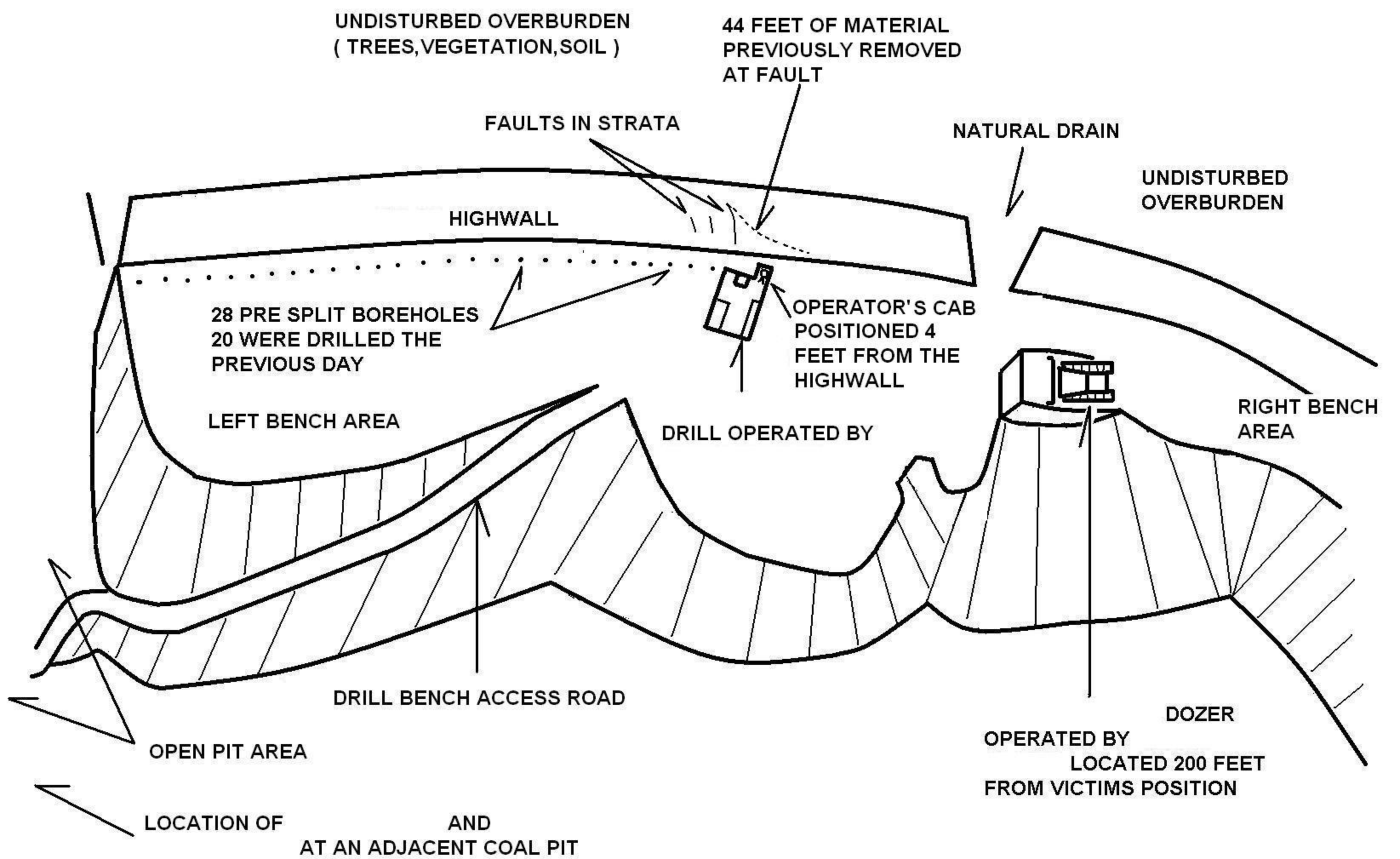
SKETCH NO. 2

AFTER ACCIDENT

SKETCH NOT TO SCALE

INC.

FILE NUMBER XXX
FATAL ACCIDENT



SKETCH NO. 1
PRIOR TO ACCIDENT
NOT TO SCALE

FOREMAN WAS
LOCATED NEAR THE MINE ENTRANCE
HELPING CONSTRUCT A SEDIMENT POND